

U.S. COAST GUARD INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) NEWSLETTER No.3 DEC 2004

The following information is about ICS in the U.S. Coast Guard and is up to date as December 2004. For the most current info, please contact the ICS Program Manager or the Area ICS Training Coordinator at the email or phone number below. This Newsletter talks about the following:

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I. ICS General Information and New Articles

Please see the July 2004 ICS Newsletter No.1 for specific information on How to get ICS training, How to get Instructor Certified, ICS Position Specific Qualifications, Entering ICS Course and Qualification Information in Direct Access, New All-Risk/All-Hazard Forms, Links to ICS and other Good Information, and Course Guard ICS Course Listings. The ICS Newsletter No.1 (July 2004) can be found at:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/ics/onlinedocs/ICSTrainingStatusJul2004.pdf>

The October 2004 ICS newsletter No. 2 gave a training update with information about new on-line FEMA courses and also gave some information about obtaining ICS supplies (forms, T-cards, etc.). The ICS Newsletter No.2 (October 2004) can be found at the bottom of the page on the main ICS website:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/ics/icssplash/index.html>

New Articles about NIMS ICS:

The NIMS Integration Center has put out a new article about NIMS that has excellent general information. It's called "NIMS and the Incident Command System". It can be found at the following link about half way down the page: <http://www.fema.gov/nims/index.shtm> Please also see the NIMS Info and FAQ below.

Here is a link to an interesting article on NIMS ICS called "Helping Everybody Get Along" by Diane Frank: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/1206/feat-incident-12-06-04.asp>

II. ICS Contacts:

ICS Program Manager and Area ICS Training Coordinators

The ICS Program Manager for the U.S. Coast Guard is **Ms. Kristy Plourde** who can be contacted by phone at **(757) 856-2940** or via e-mail at kplourde@tcyorktown.uscg.mil

The full-time **Area ICS Coordinators** are the ICS training quota control point and will assist units and districts find instructors as needed for CG taught ICS courses. The Area ICS Training Coordinators are **LCDR Dave Pierce for LANT – (757) 398-7770**, email: dpierce@lantd5.uscg.mil and **LCDR Ron Cantin for PAC - (510) 437-3677**, email: rcantin@d11.uscg.mil. There are general and advanced ICS courses available to the CG (listed in section VII of the ICS Newsletter No.1).

III. ICS Training Update:

The following is training information to supplement the training information in the ICS Newsletter No.1 (July 2004) and No.2 (October 2004) which can be found at the links above.

Based on funding in FY05, the following contracted position and team ICS training courses will probably be offered (see ICS Newsletter No.1 for course definitions):

<u>Course</u>	<u>Training Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
ICS-339 IRPW	Long Island Sound/TOPOFF 3 in New London CT	4-7 JAN 05
ICS-320 MATES	Western Alaska/Anchorage AK	1-3 MAR 05
ICS-320 MATES	Long Island Sound/TOPOFF 3	9-11 MAR 05
ICS-339 IRPW	Miami FL	28-31 MAR 05
ICS-320 MATES	Chicago IL	24-26 MAY 05
ICS-320 MATES	Providence RI	8-10 AUG 05
ICS-339 IRPW	Portland OR	26-30 SEP 05

IV. National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Frequently Asked Questions

National Incident Management System

Developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) integrates effective practices in emergency response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. The NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively and efficiently to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity, including catastrophic acts of terrorism and disasters. Federal agencies also are required to use the NIMS framework in domestic incident management and in support of state and local incident response and recovery activities. The benefits of the NIMS system will be significant:

- Standardized organizational structures, processes and procedures;
- Standards for planning, training and exercising;
- Personnel qualification standards;
- Equipment acquisition and certification standards;
- Interoperable communications processes, procedures and systems;
- Information management systems with a commonly accepted architecture;
- Supporting technologies – voice and data communications systems, information systems, data display systems, specialized technologies; and
- Publication management processes and activities.

About the NIMS Integration Center

The NIMS Integration Center was established by the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide “strategic direction for and oversight of the National Incident Management System... supporting both routine maintenance and the continuous refinement of the system and its components over the long term.”

The NIMS is a comprehensive incident response system, developed by Homeland Security at the request of the President. The NIMS Integration Center will oversee all aspects of the NIMS, including the development of NIMS-related standards and guidelines and the provision of guidance and support to incident management and responder organizations as they implement the system. The Center also will validate compliance with the NIMS and National Response Plan responsibilities, standards and requirements.

The NIMS Integration Center is a multi-jurisdictional, multidisciplinary entity made up of federal stakeholders and state, local and tribal incident management and first responder organizations. It is situated in the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The organization of the NIMS Integration Center reflects its critical focus on functions necessary for the nationwide implementation of the NIMS by incident managers and responders at all levels – federal, state, local and tribal. Its job is to manage and maintain the NIMS and to oversee the development of tools and resources that will help incident managers use the NIMS system to respond effectively to events, no matter what the size or scope.

The organization of the Center includes the following branches:

- Standards and Resources
- Training and Exercises
- System Evaluation and Compliance
- Technology, Research and Development
- Publications Management

Operations of the Center are currently in Phase I, which includes the development of NIMS awareness training, education and publications; NIMS training and guidance and tools to help participants understand and comply with NIMS; and the identification of existing capabilities, initiatives and resources for NIMS and the NIMS Integration Center. Phase I also will see the establishment of an Advisory Committee, functional working groups and the preparation of programs and processes.

The acting director of the NIMS Integration Center is Gil Jamieson, at DHS/FEMA. Following are descriptions of the Center's functional organization along with questions and answers that we believe NIMS network participants are likely to want information about at this point in the process. We invite you to Ask the NIC questions you would like answered by writing to us at NIMS-INTEGRATION-CENTER@DHS.GOV.

Standards And Resources

This part of the NIMS Integration Center will focus on the development of a national system of guidelines, protocols and standards for the implementation of the NIMS system. For example, the NIMS requires the qualification and certification of incident response personnel. This requires national standards for qualifying and certifying personnel and will ensure that agencies and organizations involved in incident response will be able to request and deploy personnel with the knowledge, skills and experience to do their jobs efficiently and effectively.

Question: Can you please discuss in detail the kinds of national standards the NIC will help develop?

Answer: The NIC will facilitate the development of national standards needed in a range of areas to increase the effectiveness of incident response operations. For example, it will facilitate the development of national standards to ensure interoperability of equipment and communications and the certification of emergency response and incident management personnel. This means it will work on the development of standardized criteria for the qualification, training and certification of response personnel. It will promote compatibility among NIMS national level standards and those developed by other public, private and professional groups. And it will facilitate the development of a system of typed and categorized resources, to include equipment, teams and personnel.

Question: Isn't FEMA already working on a National Mutual Aid and Resource Management System?

Answer: Yes. This FEMA initiative supports the NIMS and is part of the Center's Standards and Resources effort. The system's work team, the National Resource Management Working Group, has been working on a national protocol for typing response resources. An initial 60 resources have been typed and can be found on the FEMA.GOV Web site at www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual_aid.htm. The system will assist all federal, state and local jurisdictions locate, request and order resources through mutual aid agreements when local capabilities are overwhelmed.

Question: We currently use the ICS for our incident response operations. How will our current ICS system relate to the NIMS?

Answer: The NIMS utilizes ICS as a standard incident management organization for the management of all major incidents. These functional areas include command, operations, planning, logistics and finance/administration. Additionally, the principle of unified command has been incorporated into NIMS to ensure further coordination for incidents involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies. This unified command component not only coordinates the efforts of many jurisdictions, but also provides for and assures joint decision on objectives, strategies, plans, priorities and public communications.

Training And Exercises

The Training and Exercises Branch will develop a national program for NIMS education and awareness, including specific instruction on the purpose and content of the document and NIMS in general. It will facilitate the definition of general training requirements and national-level training standards as well as course curricula associated with the NIMS. It will facilitate the development of national standards, guidelines and protocols for incident management training and exercises, including consideration of existing exercise and training programs at all jurisdictional levels.

Question: Why must my organization conduct National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and exercises?

Answer: HSPD-5 requires federal departments and agencies to make adoption of NIMS by state and local organizations a condition for federal preparedness assistance by FY 2005. Organizations and personnel at all governmental levels and in the private sector must be trained to improve all-hazard

incident management capability. These organizations and personnel must also participate in realistic exercises to improve integration and interoperability.

Question: How will the NIMS Integration Center (NIC) assist jurisdictions in meeting NIMS training and exercise needs?

Answer: The NIMS Integration Center will:

- Facilitate the development of and the dissemination of national standards, guidelines and protocols for incident management training;
- Facilitate the use of modeling and simulation in training and exercise programs;
- Define general training requirements and approved training courses for all NIMS users, including instructor qualifications and course completion documentation; and
- Review and approve, with the assistance of key stakeholders, discipline-specific training requirements and courses.

Question: What role does the NIC have in determining emergency response personnel NIMS qualification and certification?

Answer: Under NIMS, preparedness is based on national standards for qualification and certification of emergency response personnel. Managed by the NIC, standards will help ensure that the participating agencies' and organizations' field personnel possess the minimum knowledge, skills and experience necessary to perform activities safely and effectively.

Question: Will NIMS training be one of the NIMS-related standards?

Answer: Yes. The standards will include training, experience, credentialing, currency and physical and medical fitness. Personnel who are certified to support interstate incidents will be required to meet national qualification and certification standards.

Question: What NIMS training is currently available to jurisdictions?

Answer: The Emergency Management Institute (A DHS/FEMA component) has developed a Web-based course that is entitled The National Incident Management System, an Introduction. The course is available free of charge to U.S. residents via the FEMA training website <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>. The course describes the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. Also included in the course are on-line "Planning Activity" tools that help the user to measure how compliant his/her organization is with NIMS.

Question: What information does the National Incident Management System, an Introduction course provide?

Answer: After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS;
- Identify the benefits of using ICS as the national incident management model;
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute an Area Command;
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute a Multi-agency Coordination System;
- Describe the benefits of using a Joint Information system (JIS) for public information;
- Identify the ways in which NIMS affects preparedness;
- Describe how NIMS affects how resources are managed;
- Describe the advantages of common communication and information management systems;
- Explain how NIMS influences technology and technology systems; and
- Describe the purpose of the NIMS Integration Center.

Question: Is current Incident Command System (ICS) training applicable to NIMS?

Answer: The NIMS recognizes the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) ICS training as a model for course curricula and materials applicable to the NIMS:

- ICS-100, Introduction to ICS
- ICS-200, Basic ICS
- ICS-300, Intermediate ICS
- ICS-400, Advanced ICS

The U.S. Coast Guard, USFA's National Fire Academy and Emergency Management Institute follow this model in their ICS training curricula. At the local level, agencies may contact the fire department for information and training on ICS.

Evaluation And Compliance

This part of the NIC will develop the assessment criteria for the various components of the NIMS, as well as compliance requirements and compliance timelines for federal, state, local and tribal entities regarding NIMS standards and guidelines. It will establish and maintain a repository and clearinghouse for reports and lessons learned from actual incidents, training and exercises, as well as for best practices, model structures and model processes for NIMS-related functions.

Question: How long do jurisdictions have to adopt NIMS?

Answer: Adoption of NIMS will progress in stages. Each stage will be referenced against standards; training criteria associated with the functions or tasks; the availability of training programs and technical assistance, and the provision of evaluation methods that jurisdictions may use to review and assess their programs against NIMS requirements. Implementing the NIMS is a dynamic process and maintenance will be required on an ongoing basis, not a single action program.

Question: Is adoption of NIMS a requirement for receipt of grant funds?

Answer: As mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5, beginning in FY 2005, adoption of NIMS will be a condition for the receipt of federal preparedness funds, including grants, contracts and other activities.

Question: How will jurisdictions be measured, evaluated and assessed in FY 2004?

Answer: In the short term, jurisdictions will be considered to be in compliance the NIMS by adopting the Incident Command System and NIMS principles and policies. Other aspects of the NIMS will require additional development and refinement to enable compliance at a future date.

Question: How will compliance be measured against NIMS evaluation criteria?

Answer: Compliance protocols, standards and guidelines for determining whether jurisdictions are compliant are currently under development. NIC customers will be notified and these materials are completed and posted on the NIMS Integration Center Web page.

Question: How will jurisdictions be measured against NIMS during the period 2005 to 2009?

Answer: The NIC will be developing additional NIMS compliance guidance as time progresses and jurisdictions will be provided resources to help them through the NIMS compliance process. The NIMS should be seen as a living document that will require continuous maintenance by the jurisdictions implementing it.

Question: Do NIMS standards currently exist?

Answer: Standards are currently being developed specifically for NIMS by the NIC, however, there currently exist several standards for incident command or incident management systems, and these are being reviewed for consideration by the NIC. As NIMS standards are developed they will be posted on the NIC Web page and jurisdictions will be notified through information bulletins.

National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative

The National Mutual Aid and Resource Management System is an initiative undertaken by the Department of Homeland Security through the [National Incident Management Systems \(NIMS\) Integrations Center \(NIC\)](#) and the [Federal Emergency Management \(FEMA\)](#), in cooperation with the [National Emergency Management Agency \(NEMA\)](#). This system will enhance emergency readiness and response at all levels of government through a comprehensive and integrated system that will allow a jurisdiction to augment response resources if needed. The system will allow emergency management personnel to identify, locate, request, order and track outside resources quickly and effectively. It will allow them to obtain information on specific resource capabilities, location, cost, and support requirements.





The key concepts of the National Mutual Aid and Resource Management System include:

1. The use of pre-incident agreements including mutual aid, [Emergency Management Assistance Compact \(EMAC\)](#), and others by donor and requesting jurisdictions.
2. Protocols for documenting and inventorying disaster response resources in terms of categories, kinds, components, metrics and typing definitions;
3. A national deployable inventory of pre-identified credentialed, categorized and capability-typed resources. These resources would be entered into the system voluntarily by federal, state, tribal or local authorities, non-government, and/or private sector entities participating in mutual aid disaster response operations.
4. An Automated Resource Management System (ARMS) to access and search the inventory/catalog to locate, request, order and track resources requested by incident management personnel in need of assistance.

The initiative fosters a process for typing and inventorying federal, state and local resources. Officials at all levels currently are participating in the initiative and they are consulting key emergency management organizations and associations throughout the process. The NIC has developed a national [Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions](#) as well as [Resource Typing definitions](#) for some of the most commonly used resources during a response. Resource typing is an integral component of the [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#). It enhances the ability of emergency responders to find needed resources during a disaster. In compliance with NIMS and in support of the Incident Command System (ICS), the Resource Typing Definitions and Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions also help promote common terminology of descriptions, standards, and types of local, state and federal response assets.

National Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions


This glossary of terms and definitions is intended to provide basic information and terms for resources commonly used or exchanged during a disaster. In addition, the glossary forms the basis for the resource typing initiative and includes an annex of 11 federal assets to provide a snapshot of federal capabilities that may be available to state and local entities. The glossary will be continuously updated and revised. For additional information on the resource typing initiative, please e-mail Lorrie Paston at lorrie.paston@associates.dhs.gov.

- [National Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions A-H](#)  (PDF Version) -- 3.2 MB
- [National Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions I-V](#)  (PDF Version) -- 3.1 MB
- [National Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions W-Annex](#)  (PDF Version) -- 2.9 MB
- [National Mutual Aid Glossary of Terms and Definitions](#)  (Word Version) -- 727 KB

Resource Typing Definitions

Resource typing definitions provide emergency managers with the information they need to request and receive the resources they need during an emergency or disaster. Typed definitions for 120 response resources have been completed. Like the Glossary, the Resource Typing Definitions will be continuously updated, revised, and expanded.

Eight groups representing key functional disciplines consisting of federal, state and local specialists were part of the effort to develop the definitions. Resources are classified by 'Category' which refers to function and 'Kind,' to include teams, personnel, equipment, and supplies. Information about level of capability is referred to as 'Type,' which is a measure of minimum capabilities to perform the function. Type I implies a higher capability than Type II. The metrics shown for each resource are measurements of standards and are applicable to like resources. For additional information contact Jonathan Jenkins at Jonathan.Jenkins@associates.dhs.gov.

- [120 Resource Typing Definitions](#)  (PDF Version) -- 44.5 MB
- [120 Resource Typing Definitions](#)  (Word Version) -- 727 KB